

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) Connecting device for an electrosurgical instrument that comprises at least one gas supply line and one power supply line, comprising:
 - a housing out of which passes a gas supply line with a power supply line disposed within the gas supply line;
 - a branching device located in the housing by way of which the power supply line is diverted out of the gas supply line in order to form respectively a gas-connection end piece and a power-connection end piece;
 - a plug to which the gas-connection end piece and the power-connection end piece are coupled, and which is fastened to the housing in order to make connection with a socket in an appliance or with connecting leads; and
 - a filter disposed within the housing in the gas-connection end piece.
2. (previously presented) Connecting device according to Claim 1, wherein the filter is exchangeable.
3. (previously presented) Connecting device according to Claim 1, wherein the branching device defines a first aperture into which the gas supply line with the power supply line disposed therein is inserted a plug into a socket.
4. (previously presented) Connecting device according to Claim 1, wherein the branching device defines a second aperture into which the filter is inserted a plug into a socket.
5. (previously presented) Connecting device according to Claim 1, wherein the branching device defines an integrated cable channel to accommodate the power supply line.

6. (previously presented) Connecting device according to Claim 1, adapted for connection to a single use electrosurgical instrument.

7. (previously presented) An APC instrument comprising:

- at least one gas supply line and one power supply line in combination with a connecting device comprising a housing out of which passes the gas supply line with the power supply line disposed within the gas supply line;

- a branching device located in the housing by way of which the power supply line is diverted out of the gas supply line in order to form respectively a gas-connection end piece and power-connection end piece;

- a plug to which the gas-connection end piece and the power-connection end piece are coupled, and which is fastened to the housing in order to make connection with connecting leads; and

- a filter disposed within the housing in the gas-connection end piece.

8. (previously presented) An APC instrument according to Claim 7, in the form of an APC probe.